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From the Editor

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From the Editor –

The response to the preview issue of *American Communal Societies Quarterly* issued last September has been gratifying. My thanks to all who have subscribed and to those who have submitted manuscripts.

In this first regular issue of *ACSQ*, we welcome Eileen Aiken English to our pages. English is professor emerita from California University of Pennsylvania, and for the past nine years has served Old Economy Village as a volunteer researcher and historic interpreter. In her article, “The Road From Harmony,” English focuses on Harmonist seceders, identifying when, how many, and why members withdrew from the Harmonist Society.

David Newell returns with an introduction to a rare manuscript from Hamilton College Library, “Mother’s Last Visit to Watervliet.” The manuscript gives an account of Mother Lucy’s last days, and Newell’s introduction provides the background to better understand her role within Shakerdom. Newell is proprietor of “David D. Newell – Shaker Literature” which specializes in printed and manuscript works by and about the American Shakers and other communal societies.

Christian Goodwillie, curator at Hancock Shaker Village, introduces five broadsides from the Hamilton College collection, providing context and explaining their importance. Most of the five are unique survivals, and only one was identified by Mary Richmond in her Shaker bibliography. Christian has written articles for *American Art Review*, *Early American Life*, *The Magazine Antiques*, and *Berkshire Living*. His first book *Shaker Songs* was published in 2002, and his new book *Millennial Praises*, co-authored with Jane Crosthwaite, will be published by the University of Massachusetts Press in 2007.